

losses to the Federal Government and student assistance recipients. Presently the Secretary has the general legislative power to do so, but there is no meaningful mechanism in place to collect funds owed. Therefore, the Secretary has only been able to seek recourse from institutions, not their owners. Many institutions fail to make unearned refunds because they are bankrupt. My bill provides the Secretary with the mechanism to collect the funds. It does so by holding the owner liable in the same way that an individual would be responsible for penalties for the nonpayment of taxes.

Taxpayer dollars should be protected to ensure the continued availability and viability of student financial aid programs. A person who has left one proprietary institution without the resources to pay refunds due and owing to students should not be able to start another school without compensating students who are owed refunds. Yet this can happen now. My legislation corrects this problem by requiring that a proprietary institution of higher education may be provisionally certified only if the prospective owner provides the Secretary with financial guarantees.

Mr. Speaker, next year when we consider the Higher Education Reauthorization, I expect that interest in this legislation will grow. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in the months to come.

#### COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1997

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am very pleased to join my good friend and colleague from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON, in introducing the Community Employment Partnership Act of 1997. This bipartisan legislation will provide communities across the country with a significant new tool in moving millions of Americans from welfare to work by establishing tax incentives for not-for-profit employers.

The central challenge of the new Federal welfare reform law is to help millions of public assistance recipients enter the work force. However, currently only profit-making employers are provided with the tools, principally in the form of the work opportunity tax credit, to recruit, hire, and train long-term welfare recipients.

Across the Nation, not-for-profits such as hospitals, nursing homes, universities, and community-based organizations remain a major untapped resource for hiring people on welfare. Many not-for-profit employers that are in need of entry-level workers are located in cities with high concentrations of welfare recipients and easy access to mass transit. This helps eliminate one of the major impediments to welfare recipients keeping a job: the cost and time of getting to and from work.

It is clear that if we want to ensure the maximum level of participation from all employers in moving people from welfare to work, we must pass legislation that expands the work opportunity tax credit program to include not-for-profit employers. Our legislation will do just that through a graduated tax credit to reduce not-for-profits' Federal payroll tax liability. Specifically, this legislation will provide a 20-

percent tax credit on payroll taxes from the date of hire for the first \$6,000 in wages for those working 120 to 399 hours each calendar year quarter and a 30-percent credit for the first \$6,000 in wages for people working 400 hours or more.

I know first-hand that in the New York metropolitan area, including hospitals, universities, and other not-for-profits in the welfare-to-work effort will not only help tens of thousands of welfare recipients become self-sufficient, it will also give these institutions the financial means to better support their communities and meet their own pressing labor needs. That is why the Community Employment Partnership Act has been endorsed by the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation is clearly a win-win situation for communities across the Nation. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LT. TRACY A. BARKHIMER

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding naval officer, Lt. Tracy Anne Barkhimer, U.S. Navy. Lieutenant Barkhimer will soon be completing her assignment as liaison officer in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building. It is a distinct pleasure for me to recognize a few of her many outstanding accomplishments.

A native of Staten Island, NY, Lieutenant Barkhimer received a bachelor of engineering degree in electrical engineering and an unlimited tonnage/any ocean third mates' license in the U.S. Merchant Marine from the State University of New York Maritime College and was commissioned an ensign in August 1988. Lieutenant Barkhimer completed naval aviation training in the T-34C airplane and in the H-57B helicopter in Pensacola, FL, and was designated an unrestricted naval aviator in June 1990.

After receiving her wings of gold, Lieutenant Barkhimer was transferred to the H-46 Helicopter Fleet Replacement Squadron in San Diego, CA for training in the Sea Knight helicopter. In August 1991, she reported to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eleven [HC-11] as an operations officer. During her tour, she deployed as a copilot for 6 months aboard U.S.S. *Wabash* [AOR5], participating in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Lieutenant Barkhimer also flew marines under combat conditions to the shores of Mogadishu, Somalia as U.S. forces worked to secure the airport and the U.S. Embassy. While on shore, Lieutenant Barkhimer performed duties as the squadron NATOPS officer, nuclear safety officer, assistant administrative officer and administrative department head for 3 months.

Lieutenant Barkhimer then deployed aboard U.S.S. *Camden* [AOE2] as assistant officer in charge/operations officer of a two-plane detachment with a complement of 30 maintenance personnel. During this 6-month deployment, she participated as an aircraft commander in Operations Desert Storm and Re-

store Hope. Upon successful completion of her second deployment, she returned to PC-11 as administrative officer and reached the 1,000 flight hours in model milestone. In January 1995, Lieutenant Barkhimer was hand-picked as a liaison officer to the House of Representatives for the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs.

Lieutenant Barkhimer has made a lasting contribution during her 3-year tenure at the Navy Liaison Office. She has processed thousands of sensitive constituent inquiries for the 104th and 105th Congresses in a timely, highly efficient, and caring manner.

Lieutenant Barkhimer planned and escorted numerous staff delegation orientation trips to various Navy and Marine Corps units and installations across the United States, introducing key congressional military advisors to the issues and challenges facing the sea services. Her extensive professional knowledge of aviation, surface and submarine programs, and impressive ability to communicate Navy legislative priorities.

Lieutenant Barkhimer flawlessly planned and executed three major overseas congressional delegation trips, two of which were led by myself. Her meticulous attention to detail and outstanding organizational skills were absolutely essential to the success of these trips.

Mr. Speaker, Tracy Barkhimer and her husband Eric have made significant sacrifices during her 9-year naval career. Tracy has spent a significant amount of time away from her family to support the vital role the U.S. Navy plays in executing our national security strategy. Lieutenant Barkhimer is a great credit to the U.S. Navy and to this great country she so proudly serves. Recently selected to the highly competitive Aviation Engineering Duty Officer Program, she now departs Capitol Hill to take on a new challenge at the Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, MD as the V-22 Osprey Avionics Systems Project Officer. I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish her every success as well as fair winds and following seas, always.

#### THE WELFARE REFORM PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the welfare reform that we have enacted is achieving the results that we intended in South Carolina. When I was in my district recently I met with Mr. Chester J. Tomson, Jr., who is the director for Orangeburg County of the South Carolina Department of Social Services [DSS]. During that meeting, and in a subsequent letter, Mr. Tomson relayed to me the success that he is experiencing in his County as a result of the welfare reform that was enacted by the Congress. Since the welfare reform initiative began in South Carolina, in January of 1996, the Orangeburg County DSS Office has placed 985 heads of households in full time employment at minimum wage. It is estimated by the staff of that Office that nearly 85 percent of those who were placed in jobs have stayed in that employment for at least 30 days